

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SS-15 A-01 ABF-01 FBO-02 OC-05

CCO-00 AID-05 USIA-06 SCCT-01 /048 W

----- 082993

R 101055Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9792

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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LAGOS FOR RSO

ABIDJAN FOR TSO

ADDIS ABABA FOR RSSO

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, TO

SUBJECT: SECURITY PROTECTION AFFORDED PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS AT
OVERSEAS POSTS

REF: A. STATE 221301 B. STATE 210312

1. REGRET DELAYED REPLY TO REF B WHICH ARRIVED AS POST
SECURITY OFFICER WAS PREPARING TO DEPART.

2. SINCE APRIL 1974 POST HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES TOWARDS
OVERCOMING A SITUATION IN WHICH ALMOST ALL AREAS OF EMBASSY
LACKED BARRIERS TO HOSTILE PENETRATION:

A) MAIN STAIRCASE LEADING TO AMB/DCM OFFICE SUITE AND COMMUNI-
CATIONS VAULT AREA HAVE BEEN SECURED WITH HEAVY WOODEN DOOR.

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COMBINATION OF SIMPLEX PUSH-BUTTON LOCK ON DOOR, HOWEVER,

HAS HAD TO BE GIVEN TO FSL EMPLOYEES WHO USE STAIRCASE 50-75 TIMES DAILY. POST EFFORTS TO OBTAIN TV CLOSED CIRCUIT MONITOR AND REMOTE CONTROL LOCKING DEVICE TO PERMIT CONTROL OF ACCESS BY AMERICAN SECRETARY HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.

B) AS PARTIAL ALTERNATIVE TO TV MONITOR SYSTEM, CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY TO WALL IN MAIN STAIRCASE AND PROVIDE STEEL-PLATED DOOR AT TOP OF STAIRS WITH WIDE-ANGLE LENS PEEPHOLE.

C) MAIN ENTRANCE TO CHANCERY AS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED, PERMITTED PERSONS TO COME IN OFF STREET AND SLIP UNNOTICED DOWN GROUND FLOOR CORRIDORS. REDESIGN OF GATES NOW REQUIRES VISITORS TO COME DIRECTLY FROM STREET INTO RECEPTION ROOM.

D) AS CHANCERY BACK DOOR, WHICH LEADS TO COMPOUND, IS UNLOCKED IN WORKING HOURS, IT HAS BEEN EQUIPPED WITH DOOR CHIME TO ASSIST RECEPTIONIST IN MONITORING TRAFFIC THROUGH IT.

E) IRON GATES ON COMPOUND ENTRANCES ARE NOW KEPT CLOSED AND GUARDED.

F) CONSUL HAS BEEN RELOCATED AT FAR END OF EAST WING TO DECREASE HIS VULNERABILITY TO A HOSTILE PENETRATION. HIS OFFICE IS PROVIDED WITH STEEL PLATED DOOR WITH WIDE-ANGLE LENS PEEPHOLE. BECAUSE CONSUL HAS NO WAY OUT OF OFFICE, HOWEVER, EXCEPT SAME DOOR, A GAS MASK HAS BEEN PLACED IN HIS SAFE AND HE WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED WITH TEAR GAS CANISTER WHEN LONG REQUESTED TEAR GAS FINALLY ARRIVES. IN EXTREME EMERGENCY, HE WILL BE PROVIDED WITH FIREARM AND AMMUNITION FOR SELF-DEFENSE IF ENOUGH WARNING IS GIVEN.

G) TO GIVE CONSUL ESCAPE ROUTE, HAVE OBTAINED QUICK-OPENING BARRICADER BAR TO INSTALL ON INSIDE EXISTING STEEL-PLATED DOOR ON LITTLE-USED BACK STAIRCASE, NEXT TO CONSUL'S OFFICE, WHICH NOW IS STEEL-BARRED FROM WITHIN. BARRICADER BAR CAN BE UNLOCKED FROM OUTSIDE WITH KEY, ALLOWING CONSUL POSSIBILITY OF REACHING UPPER FLOOR AND VAULT AREA. AM REQUESTING TSO BY SEPTEL TO ARRANGE FOR INSTALLATION. ALSO STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING DIRECT ENTRANCE FROM CONSUL'S OFFICE TO BACK STAIRCASE.

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H) FSL RECEPTIONIST HAS BEEN PROVIDED ALARM BUTTON UNDER DESK DRAWER WHICH SOUNDS ALARM IN OFFICES OF AMBASSADOR, DCM, CONSUL, AID OFFICER AND C&R VAULT. TO SUPPLEMENT ALARM SYSTEM PORTABLE 2-WAY VOICE RADIOS PLACED IN OFFICES OF DCM, PAO AND ADMIN OFFICER. (PAO LOCATED ACROSS STREET AND ADMIN OFFICER IN ANOTHER BUILDING WITHIN COMPOUND.)

I) AMERICAN IN CHANCERY MOST VULNERABLE TO ATTACK AND WITH LEAST

CHANCE TO ESCAPE IS AID OFFICER, LOCATED AT FAR END OF SOUTH WING. PROPOSE TO EQUIP HIS OFFICE WITH SAME TYPE DOOR AS ON CONSUL'S OFFICE. HAVE PREPOSITIONED GAS MASK IN AID OFFICE. WILL ALSO PREPOSITION TEAR GAS WHEN AVAILABLE. AS IN CASE OF CONSUL, WILL PROVIDE AID OFFICER FIREARM AND AMMUNITION FOR SELF-DEFENSE IN CASE OF EXTREME EMERGENCY. WAYS TO PROVIDE HIM WITH EMERGENCY QUICK ACCESS TO COMPOUND ALSO BEING STUDIED.

J) PRESENT HEIGHT OF COMPOUND WALLS IS 5 FT IN KEY SECTIONS. EMBASSY WILL STUDY WAYS TO IMPROVE THIS BARRIER TO PENETRATION WITHOUT CREATING FORTRESS APPEARANCE.

3. EMBASSY NOW ENGAGED IN A THOROUGH REVIEW OF POST CONTINGENCY PLANS. THIS STUDY MAY SUGGEST FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN PHYSICAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

4. BELIEVE THOSE IN DEPARTMENT FAMILIAR WITH SECURITY LIMITATIONS INHERENT IN OUR PRESENT CHANCERY BUILDING WILL AGREE WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN OUR SECURITY PROGRAM IN PAST 19 MONTHS, BUT I FEEL PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOWED BY POOR REGIONAL SUPPORT AND LACK OF COORDINATION. MOST FEATURES DESCRIBED ABOVE WERE CONCEIVED BY POST WELL OVER YEAR AGO BUT SOME ARE STILL AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION. WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST REGIONAL SECURITY EFFORTS WOULD BE BETTER COORDINATED AND MORE EFFECTIVE IF RSO LAGOS AND TSO ABIDJAN WERE AT SAME POST. AM STILL WITHOUT AMMUNITION AND TEAR GAS, BUT SPLENDIDLY EQUIPPED WITH EMPTY REVOLVERS, EMPTY SHOTGUNS AND GAS MASKS'

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